Beyond Me

Brenna Dougherty

# Prologue

As the three of us embraced each other ready for the impact, we saw the words “The End” spread across the sky.

“What’s going on?” Kaitlin said with her voice in a low whisper.

“I don’t know,” I stammered, “but I’m going to find out…”

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Let me start from the beginning, as all good stories do. I’m Brenna Hope and I am a freshman at Hunterdon Central Regional High School. I’m just an average teenager with crazy friends and a complicated life. Interested in music, ballet, fashion, fencing, and doing well in school. Well maybe I’m not your normal teen. I’m a little on the strange side, but I’m confident and don’t care what anyone thinks of me. Straight As is what I live by, and I don’t have a lot of free time on my hands. You can call me a nerd cause sometimes that’s really all I am. My glasses are gone now so my contacts hide the fact that I even look like a nerd. Well that’s stereotypical… maybe I shouldn’t say that. But hey I’m talking about myself! Hmm maybe that’s something I should have said before. I have an interesting sense of humor; my friends love me for that. Oh yea I’m a brunette and though really smart I’m stupid at the most random times. Dark brown eyes and 5’4’ with hair down to my waist and pin straight with feathery layers I absolutely love. Residing in a small town in New Jersey I come from a close, loving family and have friends who I would do anything for. Also throughout this story you will notice I write with contractions galore. I’m writing this story how I’d talk so your gonna have to deal cause I am a teenager :P. Also lots of dialogue makes a great story! But really now, enough about me this is supposed to be a story about the above statement! Anyway, hope you enjoy and I promise you all this I’m telling you is 100% truth. So here we go…

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Day One

I remember it like it was yesterday (cliché I know), it was Monday May 2nd when everything turned upside down. We got back from spring break a week ago and at first there really wasn’t anything out of the ordinary, just another day at lunch…

“Come on really, how old are we guys? Two? Three?” Madi said obviously displeased with our behavior. Madi is a blonde with a maternal sense to her. She’s like our group’s mother in a way. She watches out for us and we love her for that. Though she is very loud and outgoing, she sometimes tries to control us. And that’s not easy.

“I’m definitely five!” Sabrina squeaked trying to make the moment even funnier than it already was. Sabrina, a brunette, on the other hand is the most “childish” out of all of us. Everything she does has us laughing our heads off no matter what. We are neighbors and have known each other since we were about four and are defiantly besties!

If you were to walk past the hallway where we sit at lunch you’d see a mess of bags, food and about twenty-five kids scattered about the hallway making noise that not even a dump truck could make. Today particularly we were playing the “What animal am I?” game. Basically charades but we make everything a little more strange.

“My turn!” Katie yelled across the hallway. “I wanna be an animal and it’s not a duck this time!” Katie is a very lovable and sweet person. When we first met in fifth grade, we were mistaken for sisters. Simply put we used to look alike. Not so much now but an inside joke we have is that she is my daughter.

“No Katie you already went like three times its Kaitlin’s turn,” Julia said, probably sick of Katie’s duck impression already. Julia is the drama queen in our group of friends (and of course a blonde) but hey everyone needs one. She always puts spice into everyday matters and though sometimes she can be a pain I wouldn’t love her any less.

“Fine, but you’re missing out,” Katie responded.

I patted her on the back, “You’ll be ok child.”

Kaitlin meanwhile is sitting against the wall eating her sandwich and gives Julia a look that would send a flock of birds down south for the winter. Kaitlin is a redhead with too many Converse to count. We’ve known each other pretty long too and she is a very trusting and honest person.

“How many times do I have to say that I don’t wanna play? You guys are giving me a headache!” Kaitlin grumbled.

“Well aren’t you a ray of sunshine?” Lauren said. Moments later Madi leaned over and smacked Lauren in the face. It wasn’t hard but it surprised Lauren and it was really funny to watch.

“Well then, I see how it is,” Lauren rubbed her cheek. This did cheer Kaitlin up and make her laugh. Lauren is tall and uber skinny (but still huggable!). She’s also diabetic so there’s the explanation. She has brown-black shoulder length hair and is my buddy <3. Told you we were weird!

“We are just so cool aren’t we?” Maddy said. Maddy is a tiny one with short blonde hair and extremely hyper. Since we have two Madi’s/Maddy’s this Maddy is called “Little Maddy”

“Nah, we just think we’re cool. No biggie,” Abby responded. Abby is Maddy’s best friend and is a great story teller. She’s supportive and really nice. She dyes her hair so much we don’t even know the real color anymore. At the moment she’s an artificial ginger! Yea Kaitlin is called a ginger, she doesn’t mind though- she’s proud!

“Haha, that was so funny I forgot to laugh,” Katie said sarcastically.

“Sad part is you actually did laugh,” Madi said.

Of course this made our volume uproar to a new level. *I love my friends* I thought as I looked at the huge smile on everyone’s face as we laughed together. Jess and Sammy returned from the bathroom and we filled them in on what they missed. Jess is new to our group. She just moved her this year from Oregon and was in my gym class. We immediately became friends and here we are like we’ve know each other for years. Jess is unique (as we all are ☺) and has many quirks. She is a great friend and I’m really glad we met. Sammy I have known forever! Well kindergarten actually. Sammy is a very happy smiley person. She’s also tiny and a great dancer. Both brunettes by the way.

“Yup definitely special!” Jess said laughing. Sammy then interrupted asking a question I would shortly long know the answer to.

“Who’s that?” Her voice suddenly serious. Steph walked up the stairs over to the group and stared at the person as if they were inhuman. Steph, once again another tiny girl, has curly black-brown hair and can be very clueless sometimes.

“Again? Why does she keep popping up?” Steph snorted apparently annoyed.

“You know her?” Sabrina asked. All of us were curious now.

“No, I saw her like twice today talking to different ‘Important’ staff members in the school.”

“Weird, I dare you to ask who she is,” Abby stated looking to Julia hoping shed agree.

“Yea, no. not a chance” Julia responded then told Lauren she should do it which was followed by Jess rolling her eyes and biting into a bagel. After discussing all the possibilities of who this girl is I snuck away from the group and started ease dropping on the lady talking to an AP science teacher.

“We must find away to prove to everyone that we are telling the truth. This is a serious matter.” She was tall, really tall like 6’3. Her face was very pale with high cheek bone and a gash across her left cheek. She had short black hair framing her face and was extremely thin and looked… breakable. She wore a navy blue jumpsuit, which was not too fashionable I might add. There was a logo on her shirt which was a rocket ship with the words “Be the sky” around it. Never heard of that organization before, and I’m the science geek.

Science is by far my favorite subject and I know almost everything there is to know about it, especially astronomy. I continued to listen and the teacher said “It’s not in my control with what happens. Please do me a favor and speak to the principal, she will have a clue with what to do. I don’t want to blow this out of proportion if we don’t know what we are dealing with.”

“We do know what were dealing with and these students need to be alerted.” Her voice was calm and smooth and much higher than I expected “Plus, I tried speaking with her and she doesn’t want to get involved.”

“That’s her choice,” he responded “I don’t know what to tell you.”

Her eyes showed she was upset and this was not the answer she was looking for.

“I’ll try talking to her again and-”

“What are you doing?” Lauren grabbed my arm pulling me out of the conversation. I glared at her.

“Trying to figure out what’s going on,” I sneered.

“Oh sorry, what did you find out?” she said sympathetically.

“Not too much, but apparently something ‘important’ is going on and the school refuses to tell us.”

“Hmm. Peculiar.”

“Yea I know. I need to find out more.”

“More of what?” Matt said approaching us from the other side of the hallway.

Matt is one of my best guy friends who is very sweet and funny. Katie’s boyfriend and a great guy. Speaking of boyfriends where was mine? I‘ve barley been with him all week.

“Oh just some stuff,” I tried not to give everything away about this “Mystery”.

“Sure,” he said “I’m on to you,” and he walked away.

“Like a creeper!” Lauren and I said simultaneously. We laughed for a bit and then got hug attacked by Teddy. Yup that’s my boyfriend.

“Hey guys! What are you doing?” He said while spinning us in a circle.

“Discovering a mystery,” Lauren smiled mischievously.

“Sounds like fun!” Teddy chirped. Ok Teddy is a hard one to explain. Insane. That’s all I can say. Well maybe not. He is 6 foot with curly brown hair. Adorable smile, very smart and we are incredibly perfect for each other. He’s loud, sociable, and the most amazing person I have ever met and I love him with all my heart.

“Oh it is fun,” I smiled “there’s something going on with our school.”

“Like what?” He asked.

Lauren and I explained what we just discussed and Teddy was just as confused as we were. I knew that being my curious self I would find out what all this was about… I just didn’t know how. Lunch continued and Mike and Will were wrestling or whatever they were doing as Matt jumped in the middle of them, typical boys. Mike is Sammy’s boyfriend also knew to our group and my “little brother”. In my group of friends we all have made up relationships and that’s what we call each other. Weird right? Will is just another guy friend who is really funny and pretty much crazy too.

“Brenna get over here and be the ref of this!” Will called to me.

“Do I have too?” I wined

“Yes!” the three of them answered.

Though my mind was racing I got up and walked over to where they were standing. I felt detached from everyone now since I heard that conversation. Then corner of my eye caught sight of a navy jumpsuit turning into the stairwell. I knew where I was going next.

Stairwell Secret

My body went faster than my mind and before I knew it I was following the girl down the stairwell to the unveiling of this big secret. Behind me the guys asked each other where I was going but I didn’t care to answer. I snuck around corners feeling totally ninja hoping none of my friends happened to follow me and blow it. Thankfully (and surprisingly) none did. She stopped on the bottom step and whipped out her cell. I heard everything

“Sean?... Yes this is Zara… I already talked to him… Did you have any luck?... That’s what I thought. We really need to get something done or this plan won’t work… Yes I know but it’s the best way to tell them… What and say ‘Hey guess what everyone the earth is going to blow up in two weeks and were all gonna die? Don’t worry though we have a new planet that you’ve never seen before and it’s right next to the earth. You can trust us.’ That’s not going to go well… Do you wanna do it? Exactly my way or no way…You know what if you’re gonna be like that talk to me when you’re civilized.”

She slammed her phone closed and let out a big sigh. Completely in awe I stagger back from what I just heard. *There’s no way…That can’t be… WHAT? I don’t believe it… Maybe it’s a joke.* *This can’t be real* I’m terrified, as these thoughts are running through my head. Then it happens. I was so deep in thought I didn’t notice the footsteps coming back up the stairs.

“Hello there,” Zara says to me staring me straight in the eyes. Her eyes were bright piercing blue and almost shaped like a cat’s eye.

“H-h-hi,” I stammer not even sure what to say. She smiles with her teeth showing. Pure white and pointed at the bottoms.

“I am Zara. And you are?” She holds out her hand. Her fingers skeleton looking.

“Brenna,” I wondered if I should have even said my real name.

I shook her hand. It doesn’t even feel like a hand. More like bones in boiling water. Her skin was really hot and smooth. Looking so pale I’d expect her to be cold like a vampire. I release my hand. The scar across her face was a black/green color. Stretching from the corner of the outside of her eye down her jaw line. Everything about her looked eerie.

“What are you looking at?” she asked with her lips forming a straight line. Her lips had a whiteish tint to them. Either she wears really weird makeup or she just naturally looks like this. She’s beautiful no doubt, but in a very strange way. I also noticed she looked pretty young. As if she should be in High School still. Bizarre.

“Umm. Your scar. It’s…different looking…” I trailed off. *Why did I say that?*

“Oh that… I had liquid nickel splash across my cheek a couple years ago. My dad is the owner of a... plating company.” Zara paused “Nickel turns the skin green so that’s why it is discolored.”

“Oh… So what’s ‘Be The Sky?’” I spoke confidently remembering the symbol on her shirt. I needed to know.

“It’s the company I own. It has to do with space and scientific stuff”

*She even sounds like a teenager .Unless she was just trying to make it sound that way.*

“Aren’t you a little too young to own a company?”

“Well aren’t you prying. I’m actually 25.” Her voice had a snarl behind it.

That freaked me out. I considered running but I had to know more.

“Sorry, and I happen to know a lot about astronomy so maybe I know about what you study.”

This story was sounding fishy. I figured the more questions I asked the more clearly her “facts” would be lacking validity.

“You’re just a kid. You wouldn’t understand.” She seemed to say it disgustedly. I don’t think she likes me very much.

“I’m a straight A student and science is my best class. I’m in AP Astronomy. As a Freshman. Try me.” I smirked at her. *Get burned!* Zara rolled her icy blue eyes at me and said

“I don’t have time for this. I have things to do.”

*I win!* I thought *She obviously has nothing to fight back with.*

Just as she was about to turn around and leave something sparked in her mind. I could see it in her face.

“You better not tell anyone what you just heard.” *Was that a threat?*

“And why is that?” I challenged “Aren’t you the one who wants the school to know what’s going on? What better way to let everyone know then by letting a *kid* spread the word?”

“Don’t even think about it,” She growled “I know what I’m doing.”

“Sure you do,” I stated “If I were you I’d think of a better plan because you just got outsmarted by me, so I don’t think you’re the smartest person-”

Zara pinned me up against the wall and stared straight into my eyes

“Watch it…” she snapped. She dropped me to the floor and I scrambled to my feet with my eyes screaming with fear. I stayed close to the wall hoping she wouldn’t attack me again.

“Nice…meeting you,” She smiled a devilish grin. Her voice was now in a completely different tone.

I considered not answering but what if she’d freak out again.

“Pleasures all mine,” I said shaking.

Zara nodded and turned on her heels walking out of the stairwell.

“Holy crap…” I whispered once she was out of sight.

I stood frozen against the wall. That was scary, and a possible near death experience. I can’t tell anyone what just happened either. *What am I going to do?*

Must Tell

I went back up the stairs to the lunch area, trying to chill out. *I need to breathe!*  I reminded myself that I couldn’t tell anyone what happened, or else.

“Where did you go?” Teddy asked me as he walked to my side. *How long was I gone?* I thought of an excuse as fast as I could.

“Umm I had to drop some papers of at the main office.” I felt bad lying to him. He is my boyfriend.

“Ohhh ok,” he smiled at me.

The bell rang and all of us departed to our next class. I arrived to English my third class of the day and then on to Spanish my last class and took my seat next to Blaire. Blaire is a brunette with long curly hair and my best friend in the whole world. We have known each other since 5th grade but we share such a close relationship it feels like I’ve known her all of my life. We don’t sit together at lunch because we come from different groups of friends but that doesn’t matter to us. We learned that to be best friends you don’t have to spend every waking moment together. We have so many laughs together and tell each other everything. I was wondering how I could ever keep this from her.

“Heyyy girl!” Blaire said taking her books out of her backpack “What’s new?”

“Hey, umm not much,” I faked a smile.

“You ok? Something’s bothering you…”

That’s the thing with the two of us, we basically know what the other is thinking, like reading minds. We truly understand each other. Plus for me that’s my specialty, I read people very, very well. Blaire was curious and also a little worried. *What should I say?*

“Nothing, I just am having an off day.” I knew she would she right through that lie.

“Mhm that’s bull Brenna. Come on.”

“I… I can’t tell you… at least not now.” I looked around the room praying Zara wouldn’t magically appear in the classroom and kill me or something.

“I’ll call you tonight and you better tell me.” She replied with her voice in a displeased tone

“Fine, I will.” I really hoped that Zara wouldn’t find out I was going to tell someone about what happened. I’d like to keep my life.

The rest of class-well the rest of the day, moved by very slowly as I relieved the whole lunch period over and over again. Maybe it would be a good thing if I had someone to talk to about this. Then I wouldn’t feel like I was alone. Finally, at 2:30 I was home and greeted by my mom.

“Hi honey, how was school today?”

“It was… weird.”

“Why? What happened?” She questioned.

“There was this weird looking girl that I talked to today. She works for a science organization.” I told her. It’s the truth, I’m just leaving out a few things.

“Well what did you talk about?”

“Um. She said that the world going to end,” I spoke nervously.

“Well there are a lot of theories about that.”

“Yea but…” It was no use.

I told my mom the whole story about how Zara looked and what she said leaving out the part where she attacked me. Knowing my mom she would probably sue the school. My mom is a very understanding and loving person, I can go to her for anything. But this I just couldn’t say. My mom is little only about 5 feet with shoulder length brown hair and has a kind and considerate personality. After telling her the story she was surprised.

“Well that’s interesting. Maybe she was just joking around?”

“That’s what I thought but everything was so sketchy I don’t really know.”

“Hm. Just wait and see what happens. No need to worry about it now”

“Yea that’s true. Thanks Mom, you always make me feel better” I hugged her and smiled.

Later that night I called Blaire as promised and was ready to tell her the story.

“So are you gonna tell me?” She said anticipating my answer.

“Yes. But you have to understand that this may sound crazy but you can’t tell anyone and you have to believe me. It’s all true.”

“Ok… you’re kinda scaring me but ok just tell me what happened?”

I calmly told her everything (Including when Zara attacked me) and then waited for her response.

“Dude! Are you serious?” Her voice sounded surprised and she probably wondered how this even happened.

“Yes. And I know it’s hard to believe.”

“Wow, so what are you going to do?” I didn’t think she was going to understand and believe me that fast but hey, that’s what best friends are for!

“I don’t know. I’m scared. I briefly told my mom the story leaving out the attack…but she thinks it’s a joke.”

“No offense I think your mom is wrong about that. This is way too serious to be a prank.”

“I agree…Hmm I wonder what ‘Be The Sky’ really is. I’m looking it up.”

“Ohhh. Good idea.”

I typed it into Google… nothing at all

“Weird… nothing came up.”

“Maybe it doesn’t exist! Maybe Zara is just a creep. Look at her name. Who names their kid that?” I laughed in agreement. That’s so true. I looked that up to. My result was Zara means Princess.

“Hey Blaire, Zara means princess.”

“Really? Maybe she’s from Asia or some country we don’t know the royal family of. ”

“I’d find that hard to believe, she seems like she’s from here.”

“Maybe she changed her name because she just got out of jail!”

“Blaire, I really doubt that.”

She started laughing and kept saying I should consider any possibility because this girl is defiantly not normal. A little while later we just changed the subject and talked for a couple more minutes and then I had to get going on my homework.

“Well good luck with Zara tomorrow. Let me know if anything happens.”

“Will do, Bye!”

“See ya!”

Ugg I was not looking forward to concentrating on Math homework.

Day Two

I woke up with a dream still stirring in my mind at about 3:00 in the morning. It went like this:

I stared at a picture in some old kind of book. It was Zara. I saw right through her lies. I stood up and slammed the book shut and walked to the other side of the classroom. There sat Zara in a plastic chair with black makeup running down her face.

“Why would you go through with this?” I asked “What did I ever do to you?” As I spoke I realized it wasn’t me talking I was in someone else’s body.

“You know why I did this!” She screamed “Not like you care. It’s always about you.”

“How? I did this for all of us. For Dad, he wanted this for us-”

“No! He wanted this for you! He only cares about you!” Zara cried out. She curled up in the seat and whined.

“You’re a self centered brat! You know that?”

“STOP!” She screamed. Zara picked up a small mirror off of a table and chucked it full force at my head. I caught it fast in between my fingers and looked into it. I was a blonde with medium tan skin and wide blue eyes. It was a familiar face but from where?

“Leave Now!” Zara screeched “I hate you Adalie!”

I tried walking towards her but I felt myself fly backwards. Bam!... I woke up

“Omg…” I whispered to myself. This dream was a sign, and I had to make sure I remembered everything in it.

I quickly jumped out of bed and stumbled to my desk and grabbed a piece of paper. Still half asleep I scribbled down the whole dream. Adalie. Adalie. Adalie. Who could that be? Zara’s sister, I think, they didn’t look alike though. *Why think about this while my eyes are barley opened?*

“Ugg” I groaned. Once satisfied that I got it all down I collapsed back into bed.

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BEEP! BEEP! Wonderful awakening to the new day. I slammed the snooze button on my alarm clock and rolled over a couple times. 5:30 I have to get up. Throughout the morning I keep think of the parts of my dream I could remember. *Good thing I wrote it down*. I did forget a lot of it. 6:30 the bus will be here in a minute! I hugged my mom goodbye and quickly ran out of the house. I just made the bus and quietly took my seat. I realized I haven’t checked my phone since yesterday after school. Oops. Teddy texted me a bunch of times. *Sorry* I answered back. *Lots of homework and stuff. <3* I felt bad that I didn’t answer him. Actually the last week or two we have been kinda distant. And I know why… I don’t wanna think about it. I was really upset. I’m gonna have to fix this…again. Once at school I approached my friends and hugged Teddy first thing. “I’m sorry, we have been having really…off weeks lately.”

“Don’t worry about it,” He replied “As long and your ok. Nothing’s bothering you still right?”

“No, no I’m fine…” I trailed off “but what’s new with you?”

We talked about random stuff until the bell rang for first block. Something felt weird between the two of us.

The morning announcements came on and told us about the new lunch in the cafeteria and the next meeting for Japanese culture club. Then it said our principal, Mrs. Aide, wanted to make an announcement about the junior testing rooms for this week. She came on the screen and my heart skipped a beat. *The girl from my dream!* *I knew she looked familiar.*

Of course, now, I figured my dream must not mean anything important. My mind probably just threw together random things. But that conversation was so deep. And definitely something I’ve never heard before. Hmm. I was now extremely curious of how this all fits together. But I can’t just walk up to my principal asking about her personal life. Plus I don’t think that my principal’s name is Adalie. I’ll have to do some sneaking around, after school. Maybe I can get Blaire to come with me. I took my phone out of my pocket and texted her saying “Can you stay after school with me today? I NEED to tell you something. I found more stuff out.”

Moments later I got a text back.

“Sure I can, can’t wait to hear it! ☺”

Good we can figure this out! Now that I know what I’m doing I could calm down. Unless I saw Zara today, that would change everything. Classes went by nothing too interesting (Obviously compared to what’s going on.) Walking to lunch I saw a young guy in a… navy jumpsuit. OMG. It must be Sean that guy Zara was on the phone with. *Should I say anything?* I didn’t even have too.

“Hey there.” He spoke right to me. *Wow he’s attractive!* He had longish blonde hair and a pretty pale skin tone but not too much paler then mine. His eyes were bright blue but not as piercing blue as Zara’s. He looked more “normal” so to say. He was only about 5’8” so he wasn’t very intimidating.

“Umm hi?” I wasn’t scared of him I just had no idea how he knew who I was. Or maybe he didn’t.

“You’re that Brenna girl aren’t you?” *Yea he does.*

“I am… how do you know me?”

He smiled, a beautiful smile… wow. No pointed teeth but they were pure white and his smile was friendly.

“Zara told me about you. Nice girl.”

“Oh. She did?” I wondered how she could say anything good about me. She hates me.

“Yes, she said you’re very smart.” He seemed so friendly and nice. Not someone who should be working with someone like Zara.

“Well thank you.” I responded “I do know a lot about science.”

“So I’ve heard…” His phone rang in his pocket. He took it out and hesitated to answer. He hit ignore and put it back in his pocket. I hope that wasn’t Zara or she would flip out on him.

“Anyway, I’m Sean.” He held out his hand.

“Oh so you are Sean,” I shook his hand, ice cold like Zara’s “I overheard your conversation with Zara.”

“Oh yea. I suppose you did.” He let go of my hand. His fingers weren’t like skeletons. I examined him more. He had muscular arms that I could see through the jumpsuit. He wasn’t breakable looking. I figured that I should stop comparing him to Zara because she is evil and he’s… not. Then I thought of my dream Adalie seemed like she was the mean one. I need more information before I make conclusions. I snapped out of my deep thoughts and realized Sean was standing there staring at me smiling, observing me. I blushed, *awkward!*

“Well I better go” I stated

“See you later then.” He smiled again and we walked opposite ways. That was an interesting meeting.

Broken

I walked up to lunch and just tried to push this out of my head and enjoy myself. It worked well. I spent time with all my friends without worrying and tried to work it out with Teddy.

“Brenna.” He interrupted me. I was telling him about some project I had to do in Spanish class. “Can we talk?”

“Sure…” *uh oh.* He took my hand and led me to the other side of the hallway away from the group.

“Does something seem different between us lately to you?” There was no denying it.

“Yea it does…”

“Do you have any idea why it’s like this” There was sorrow in his face. I knew what was coming. I told the truth about what I thought and was feeling.

“I really don’t know. I feel like we’re losing our connection…” I avoided his eyes and looked down to the floor. I didn’t want this to be happening.

“Do you think that we can fix it?”

“If we don’t know the cause I think it’s gonna be hard to fix. I really wish we could though.”

“Me too, maybe we would be better as friends? I still really like you though. I feel like it’s more like friends though.”

I sighed, after four months of a great relationship it was going to end like this.

“I guess.” I thought back to what actually happened these last couple weeks.

We had a bunch of mini fights because I accused him of liking Kaitlin, the redhead I talked about before. They were in Disney together over spring break for band and orchestra. Together non-stop. It was days of crying and arguments and talking back and forth between the three of us. Kaitlin and I have known each other since first grade so I knew I had to trust her with what she was telling me. She liked him in the past so I was paranoid. I ended up forgiving them and told myself nothing happened and it’s not a big deal. Teddy has been so distant with me and we barley spent any time together anymore. I guess the bond is really gone between us.

“Ok. But we can still be friends right?” He asked.

“We can try. No promise it will be easy. But we can’t be really close. Only like acquaintances.” I stated. I’ve never stayed friends with any of my ex’s because it was always too hard to deal with.

“That’s fine with me.” He reached out and hugged me. I hugged back and then walked away to get my backpack and jacket. Jess was standing there when I walked over.

“Did you do it?” She knew that this was going to happen because I’ve been upset for a while with him.

I nodded and my eyes filled with tears. Teddy walked by and hugged me again and said bye. I didn’t make eye contact. He and Kaitlin have their next class together so she said, “We’ll talk later” and the two of them walked away.

The minute he was out of sight I burst out crying and Sabrina was hugging me. I really thought we would be together for a really long time. Each of my friends took turns hugging me and told me that it’s going to be ok and they love me.

I knew I couldn’t go to class like this so I went to the bathroom and called my mom. I cried even harder telling her what happened and just sat on the floor trying to calm down.

“It’s ok honey. It just wasn’t meant to be. You’ll be ok.” She comforted me until I could finally talk again and then I hung up with her and went to the guidance counselor so I could just talk about it and get it out of my system. It felt a lot better to let it all out and I went to class with ten minutes remaining to the period.

I then went to Spanish and Blaire was sitting on the other side of the room and saw me come in. I obviously looked upset because she mouthed across the room “Are you ok?”

I shook my head and told her I’d tell her after class.

The bell rang and Blaire walked over to me and said, “Teddy?” I nodded and told her we broke up. I didn’t feel like talking about it all over again but I didn’t need to. She hugged me and said that I don’t need him and that she loves me more than he ever did. I laughed a little and said thanks.

“Are you still in the mood to stay after school?”

I totally forgot we were gonna find out stuff about Zara and Mrs. Aide. It would cheer me up to spend time with Blaire and to get my mind off of everything.

“Yea. Let’s go!”

Classroom Event

We walked up to the main office and I told Blaire how I met Sean today.

“You’re single now. Go for it!”

“Blaire, are you crazy? He might be hot but he’s involved with Zara and probably a major creep.”

“Oh fine. But if he’s not you should deff-”

I put my arm out in front of her and she rammed into me.

“What was that for?” I gave her a look that said *you need to shut up!* I looked straight ahead and she followed my eyes. There Zara stood in front of the main office. I grabbed Blaire’s arm and pulled her into the closest classroom I could see.

“OMG! Is that Zara?” she whispered.

“Yea and it looks like she’s waiting to see Mrs. Aide”

Before she could answer I heard voices outside the classroom door followed by the doorknob turning. Blaire jumped up and ran behind the bookcase and motioned for me to follow. As I stood up someone walked in. I immediately crouched to the floor and crawled and fast as possible to the bookcase. I knew it was them. We stared between books on the shelf and watched as Zara and Mrs. Aide entered the class room.

“Sit down.” Mrs. Aide said to Zara. She seemed aggravated with her. Zara walked over to the teacher’s desk and pulled up a plastic chair and sat down. Next to her there was a table with supplies for a science experiment. Zara looked as if she were about to start crying. Mrs. Aide had a textbook in her hand and sat down on the other side of the room and flipped through it. She stopped at one page and stared at it then slammed the book shut and went up to Zara.

“Why would you go through with this?” She questioned. Sound familiar? I gasped and quickly covered my mouth. Luckily they didn’t hear me. Blaire looked at me as if I wanted to get myself killed for making a sound. If she only knew that the dream I had was happening right in front of me.

“What did I ever do to you?” Mrs. Aide continued.

“You know why I did this!” Zara screamed “Not like you care. It’s always about you.” The makeup was running down her face. She was really upset…

Mrs. Aide didn’t seem to care and continued on “How? I did this for all of us. For Dad, he wanted this for us-”

“No! He wanted this for you! He only cares about you!” Zara cried out. She avoided her eyes and whimpered. They must be sisters, they have to be.

“You’re a self centered brat! You know that?” I wish I could pick sides but I don’t know what this was fully about.

“STOP!” She screamed. Zara picked up one of the mirrors off of the table and threw it at Mrs. Aide. She had fast reflexes and caught it, just like my dream.

“Leave Now!” Zara screeched “I hate you Adalie!”

This was obviously the conversation Zara didn’t want to have. But this is where my dream ended, more needs to happen. She won’t just leave.

“I told you not to call me that! My name is Lee. Lee Aide” Mrs. Aide responded with a growl. Now she really seemed like Zara’s sister.

“It is not! You just think your better then everyone cause you get to live here”

“How many times to I have to tell you Zara, Dad picked me because I’m the oldest and better qualified to live here. You get to be the Princess and rule Jupiter after him. You’re the favorite!”

I was shocked, the reason Zara seemed so weird is because she is an alien! Blaire and I exchanged looks and couldn’t believe what we were hearing. Mrs. Aide- I mean Adalie looks normal though. She must be in a human form or something.

Zara continued the conversation. “Adalie, your name means noble one. He wants you to rule Earth! Earth is better than Jupiter.”

“I’m not going to rule Earth. Me coming here was an experiment for Dad. We are both royal that’s why my name means noble one. Yours means princess!”

“And? My dream was to live on Earth and you got it instead of me!” Adalie looked really annoyed now. She glared at Zara and said “I got this because I can handle it. Unlike you. You’re crazy for coming here.”

She walked to the desk where she left to book and carried over to Zara. The book was an old collection of ancient myths of threw the book on her lap.

“Page 106”

Zara flipped through the pages and rolled her eyes when she got to the page.

“Big whoop! No one is gonna see that!” She crossed her arms in front of her and looked out the window.

“Zara, this is a book of myths. If a student who has seen you were to do research she would recognize you.”

“Adalie I don’t care. I am going to-” A book from the shelf next to us fell and made a loud clapping sound as it hit the ground.

Both Blaire and my eyes widened, we were screwed. Adalie got up and walked over to us. I tried to think of the best excuse I could but I got nothing.

“Hello girls,” She had a smile on her face “What are you doing in here?” I looked at Blaire who looked terrified and figured that I had to be the one who talked us out of this.

“We-umm I had to… get a book from this shelf. This is my science classroom and…” I stopped talking. This was not a science room. It just had some science supplies in it. *I screwed this on up.* Adalie could tell I realized my horrible cover up and just let it go.

“I see,” she said “you should have spoken up when we came in.”

“Yes, and I’m sorry. I didn’t think it was going to be such a… personal conversation.” Zara got up and walked over to the bookshelf, curious with what was happening.

“We met again” Zara smiled at me and I just took a deep breath and prepared myself.

“Hi Zara. How’s it going?” I smiled back, *this should be fun.*

“You know each other?” Adalie said surprised.

“Yes, we had a little ‘run in’ the other day” Zara stated as if the meeting was no big deal. Adalie eyed her as if to say “We’ll talk later” so I decided to break the awkward moment

“Yup, we talked about science, and stuff.” Before anyone could say something else my phone rang. Literally saved by the bell.

“Well that’s my mom we better go. Bye.” I grabbed Blaire’s arm and exited the classroom.

“Brenna time to go, you have dance tonight.” my mom said on the phone.

“K Mom, be right out.” I hung up the phone and looked at Blaire who looks like she’s been petrified.

“Blaire you ok? You haven’t said a word.”

“Uhuh. I’m fine. Just… WOW!” She got excited now saying how amazing the whole thing was and how it seems like a creepy fairytale. I laughed I’m glad she gets a kick out of it.

“Yea but it’s real, and scary.”

“Very true,” she agreed “I’m with you all the way!”

“Thanks,” I laughed “but I really gotta go so talk to you later!”

“Same here, I’m not hanging around till they come out!”

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Later that day, after homework, I went to Ballet class. I’ve been taking Ballet since I was three and a half. Twelve years! I love it so much and it really is a huge part of my life. I love the feeling of landing a move and stretching out getting ready for practice. It’s a ton of fun. After class I feel nice and refreshed, dance out my issues. It feels great.

Once I was home and really had time to relax I thought about my day. I got dumped, sucks. I wasn’t really thinking about it through the afternoon cause of the classroom incident but I’m still upset. I sighed and decided listening to music, it will make me feel better, (as always). The usual night activities followed and I was happy to go to bed after a long day…

Day Three

I opened my eyes to the bright sunlight shining through my window. *Am I late?* I questioned myself this early in the morning. Nope, right on time, my alarm clock reassured me. At school there was no sign of Zara or her “workers” so I thought today might be a regular slow day. Boy was I wrong. I walked into lunch seeing a huge fight at its boiling point. Sabrina and Julia were obviously having problems so I knew I’d have to be the one to make it all better. I asked Katie for the background info and she seemed annoyed with the whole situation.

“Julia’s overreacting because Sabrina didn’t pick her as a partner for some Social Studies project. Sabrina picked the smart girl, Lily, so she will get a good grade. Julia was then left to be partners with the kid who was held back and doesn’t know what he’s doing.”

“Drama” I said emotionless and went to hear the two sides of the story. The regular drill.

“Yo Sabrina. So tell me your side of the story.”

“Well Julia thinks I am going to always pick her as a partner but we both know we never get the work done. This grade is important and I really need to raise my grade. So I picked Lily as my partner and Julia says it’s unfair she gets a bad partner. She should have asked someone else first, instead of depending on me.”

“Thank you child, I will go hear the other side now.” Sabrina couldn’t help but smile because every time this happens I come to the rescue.

“Sup Julia. What’s your side of the story?”

“Sabrina left me for the smart girl! We are always partners and she didn’t’ tell me she wanted to work with someone else. I had no one to go with except Kyle. He never pays attention and is supposed to be a sophomore. I’m so pissed.”

“I see the problem.” I grabbed Julia’s arm and dragged her over to where Sabrina was standing.

“No!” She was pulling away from my arm “I’m not talking to her!”

“Yes you are. You guys are working this out.”

“Fine” Julia groaned. I put them face to face and started the mediation speech.

“Ok, so Sabrina should have told Julia ahead of time that she wanted to work with Lily. Then Julia should have gotten a different partner so she wasn’t stuck with Kyle. Julia should have respect that Sabrina wanted to get work done and it was nothing personal. Both of you should apologize…” We all just looked at each other, “now!” I shouted, in a friendly yet strict tone.

The two of them reluctantly said sorry and I felt the tension lower. *Good.* They were still a little awkward together but I knew it would blow over by the end of the day.

“Good job Mommy” Katie said to me

“Why thank you daughter.” We both laughed and ate our lunch.

During the last couple minutes of lunch Teddy happened to walk by where we sit. *Wonderful.* He looked right at me and I just looked away. That’s way too awkward for me to deal with. Lauren was sitting in the middle of the hallway and just looked back and forth between to two of us. I met her gaze and rolled my eyes.

“Blah to this.” We both laughed and I was relieved that seeing him didn’t cause anything bad.

I wondered if we would ever really talk again. Hm, well I have too much to worry about so right now I don’t care. Speaking of things I need to worry out I need to take a trip to the school library… I’m gonna get that book of myths.

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After school I quickly ran to the library so I could still make the bus. I casually walked in acting like I was just getting a book for some project. I was hoping that I’d find it fast. Then again I wasn’t sure if Adalie still had the book. Grrr. I went to the Fiction section and searched under M for myths. Bingo! There was the same book Adalie had on the bottom shelf. I grabbed it and ran to the check-out desk. The librarian scanned my ID card and then said

“Hm. What class are you using this book for?” I was about to panic. She probably knew Adalie-Mrs. Aide just had this book taken out

“English-” I blurted out “I mean…I picked it out of interest but we need to pick a book for English, that’s not a novel…”

She looked at me questionably then smiled

“Well have fun! Seems like an interesting book.” She handed the book to me and I smiled back and thanked her.

I ran out fast and straight to my bus. It did take a little longer than I expected. Once on the bus I opened up the book to page 106 like Adalie had said. The myth was titled Vespera-The evening star. Written in 1842, older than I thought. It had a black and white picture of Zara looking not too much younger than she does now. She was in a tight spacesuit sitting on a rock in space. Looks fake, but it must be real. She is from Jupiter. The myth is what follows:

*Some time ago there lived two young girls, their father was the king of Jupiter. They too one day would be rulers of planets of their own. Adalie and Zara were sisters only 2 years apart and they were the best of friends. They went on adventures together and spent most of their time side by side. With storms approaching the girls were torn apart to go their separate ways. Earth was the eldest’s destination. Adalie’s father sent her there as an experiment to see if their kind could start new life there. She was changed to her human form and given a necklace with magical powers to keep her identity safe. She was on her way. On the other hand Zara was left on Jupiter as heir to the royal throne to rule the planet after her father. She was not happy with this compromise and tried to go to Earth. She was punished for this behavior and was forbidden to ever go to Earth or change to her human form. This made her angry and she plotted a way to get back at her sister. Adalie blissfully went to Earth without knowing what was happening on Jupiter and pursued her new life as an average human living on planet Earth.*

I re-read the myth about five times before I believed what I was reading. This is all starting to make sense now. The only part I couldn’t figure out is how Zara got off of Jupiter if she was forbidden to leave. Then again it is Zara, she breaks all the rules.

Day Four

“Brenna, I need you to stay after to make up a quiz today, ” my English teacher spoke to me quietly at the beginning of class. I forgot how on Tuesday I missed a vocab quiz. I was busy crying on the bathroom floor.

“Sure, I’ll be there.”

It’s starting to get closer to June which means the end of school is getting closer. That means tons of more work coming. Teachers are trying to fit everything in last minute. Now that I don’t have a boyfriend I have to be dedicated to school work. Make sure my grades stay where they are. Also I have to stay focused on ballet, fencing, and The AZ Mission (The code name Blaire and I came up with for the Zara and Adalie stuff).

After school I went straight up to my English classroom. I have fencing tonight; I gotta hurry so I have time for homework. The quiz was easy. *100 percent!* I was on my way to the main entrance where my mom would be waiting for me in about twenty minutes. I heard arguing in the distance, it was coming from a nearby classroom. As I walked by I looked in and saw Zara cornering Adalie and threatening her. I should have known. *Always after school.* I backed against the wall right outside the door so I could hear what was going on. *They should really do their important talking somewhere where people can’t see them. But it’s good for me!*

“Adalie, you better listen to me or else. Convince the parents to let their kids stay here or I will do it the hard way.”

“What makes you think the parents would ever agree to let their child live at the school” I peaked my head around the corner just so if something exciting happened I would get to see it.

“Only for a week,” Zara retorted, “it’s for an important science ‘simulation’. Plus I have my ways” Zara had a smirk on her face, probably the same face she had on when she escaped Jupiter.

“I…” Adalie looked worried “I’ll do it.”

“Good. Then we understand each other. Thanks sis.” Adalie glanced at the floor and then up at the doorway. She looked right at me. I backed up against the wall again. *Don’t come over here. Please, please.* She didn’t, and I heard her speak.

“So, your plan is to tell everyone the world is going to end and you will save them. Then we’re going to go to another planet to live. What makes you think they will ever fall for that?”

“Adalie, I learned how to brainwash people. Remember? That’s how I got Dad to let me leave.” *That’s how she did it!*

“Oh right. Well… what will you accomplish with this false statement?” I thought hard about this before Zara could answer. She is saying all this stuff is going to happen but it isn’t true? I mean it did seem hard to believe. But why? What will she get from this? I got my answer, and I wish it wasn’t what she really wanted. But it was.

“You ask too many questions Adalie.” I heard footsteps so I looked in again. Zara was cornering her farther into the walls.

“I am going to take your spot. You don’t deserve this life. I do. I will take over this school and then work on taking over all of… Earth. I had many many years to plan this all out. While you were here living your simple little *waste* of a life I worked on getting out of that place. I learned things you’ll never be able to do.” Her voice had attitude in it and I wouldn’t be surprised if she was about to snap at Adalie.

“You won’t win this battle Zara. You may think you’re strong but you can’t control everyone forever just to get what you want.” Adalie emerged from the corner and started backing Zara up.

“Watch me.” Zara shoved Adalie backwards and started heading for the door. I ran as fast as I could down the hallway into the closet room. It was a janitor’s closet. After about five minutes I figured the coast was clear so I quietly opened the door Adalie was walking towards me. I turned to walk away fast but,

“Brenna, wait,” Adalie pleaded to me. My new Nike sneakers squeaked and I jolted to a stop. I looked down at them sparkling rainbow colors in the light of the hallway. At least they didn’t squeak when I ran away before.

“What? Are you going to yell at me for listening to one of your conversations again? I’m sorry but you’re in the most obvious places and I always just happen to be there.”

She paused for a moment “I need your help.”

I looked questionably at her face. She looked very scared “My help? What could I possibly do?”

“You’re smart, and I can’t do everything myself. I need someone to distract her. Or at least do something to help stop her.”

“I guess I am kinda involved already.”

“Yea you are, don’t fall for her tricks. Follow my lead ok?”

“Ok Adalie. Deal.” She smiled and her expressions thanked me.

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That night at fencing I was thinking about actually fighting someone. I could totally use my fencing moves to beat someone up. If I had something long and pointy of course. Like in Star Wars, a light saber fight. That would be awesome! I did combinations and lunged until my legs were sore. Very successful practice, it felt so good. When I got home I listened to some music and was singing along to all the words. My favorite thing in the world. I relaxed my muscles and went to bed early for a good night’s sleep.

Day Five

My bus came late so all of us on the bus had to try to make it to class on time. *That’s not happening.* I wondered why we don’t get an excused late if it’s our buses fault but whatever. I ran as fast as possible to my science classroom and snuck in right as the bell rang. *How did I do that?* As I was getting my binder out of my backpack I heard a loud sound coming from the screen where the announcements were projected. We all jumped. *That definitely woke everyone up.* It was Adalie making an important announcement. “Hello students, There will be a mandatory meeting for parents tonight at five o’ clock. All parents MUST attend. Please take out your phones and call them now.” All of us looked at each other and shrugged. We went and got our phones to call them.

“What could this be for?” Kaitlin was sitting behind me and was reluctant to call her mom.

“I don’t know. It seems important though.” My gut was telling me that this had something to do with the science simulation Zara was talking about. I was worried.

“My mom isn’t going to go,” Maddy sighed “she’s always working.”

I thought of what would happen if a parent didn’t go. “She has to Maddy. This seems like crazy important…” I can’t just pretend like I don’t know what’s happening but I have to. I can’t give anything away. Adalie must have a plan.

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Before lunch I went with Abby to her Math class, she needed to get some worksheet.

“Ugh. I don’t wanna do this,” she complained as we walked out of the room.

“Sorry Abby but it’s Math. Not science. Can’t help you too much there,” I laughed.

“Yea true. I should probably get a tutor.”

“Good idea.” As we kept walking I saw Sean approaching us.

“Oh jeez,” I said under my breath

“You know him?”

“I wish I didn’t,” Abby didn’t answer because he was close enough to hear us now.

“Brenna, hey,” Abby and I exchanged glances.

“Hey Sean. How’s it going?” I said nonchalantly.

“Pretty good. Glad to see you,” He smiled. Abby looked at me and figured she would leave us alone.

“Meet you upstairs,” She looked at him then left me standing there.

“So Sean, What are you up to?” I had a feeling he was up to no good.

“Oh nothing, I heard you meet up with Zara again,”

“Yea, by accident. Why does it matter?”

“I don’t know seems like you keep getting involved with what she’s doing,”

“You think I choose to get involved? No, it just happens.”

“Sure it does,” he took a step towards me “You know what’s going on don’t you?”

“Of course I do, I’ve heard it all.”

”Well then maybe we should hang out sometime.”

“Umm what? That was kinda off topic,” I look him straight in to eyes. They were so blue.

“Sure, that would be fun.” *What am I saying?* I broke the gaze and shook my head. It seemed as if I was hypnotized. I looked down at the floor.

“I mean no. Zara and I don’t get along. As long as you’re involved with her I’m staying away from you.”

“Fine, it’s your choice,” he tilted my chin up forcing me to look at him again “but just remember that the more you know the more involved you are. You know far too much.”

“Get off me,” I pushed his hand away from my face “I know what I need to know. You and Zara won’t win this.” I walked away leaving him there to his thoughts.

“Dude who was that?” Abby came up to me once I appeared out from the stairwell.

“This guy who works with this science company thing, he’s a creeper.”

“Doesn’t look like one but ok!” she winked at me and laughed.

“Sure Abby, sure.” I sat down next to Sammy and we started talking about random stuff.

“I feel like I haven’t talked to you in forever!”

“You’re always so busy Brenna!”

“It’s not my fault! There aren’t enough hours in the day.” We both laughed and she started asking me about my clothes.

“Omg! Your shirt is so cute! Can I have it when you don’t want it?”

“Of course Sammy.”

“You always have the most adorable clothes, I’m jealous!”

“We need to go shopping together then!”

“We do! That would be lots of fun.” The rest of lunch I moved from place to place talking to different people and for some reason everything felt normal. First time in a really long time. I also felt like a lot of stuff has slowed down. I felt better.

The Meeting

That night my parents were getting ready to go to the meeting and I was trying to make sure they took notes or recorded it.

“Brenna you’re being ridicules, I doubt that Zara person is involved with this.” My mom said to me. I haven’t told her anything about the AZ Mission since the first time I meet Zara.

“I wouldn’t doubt it Mom.”

“I will tell you everything they say but I’m not going overboard to record it.”

“Fine. Don’t forget anything though.”

“I won’t.”

“What is this about?” My dad questioned me as he walked downstairs. My dad is tall with brown hair and blue eyes. He can be strict sometimes but most of the time he’s fun and entertaining to be around.

“Zara’s this creepy girl I meet at school who works for this science company ‘Be The Sky’ and she’s not a student. I think she is involved with this meeting.”

“Ok then,” My dad seemed confused.

“Oh it doesn’t matter, come on were going to be late,” my mom said to my dad. They were off.

At around six thirty I heard the garage door open and I knew they were home.

“What happened?” I asked the minute they walked in the door.

“You’re going to be staying over at the school for a week,” My dad said casually. It was about Zara’s plan.

“You’re allowing this?”

“Yes, your father and I think it will be a good experience for you.” My mom didn’t even sound like herself.

“What if I don’t wanna go?”

“You’re going, so you better start packing,” My dad thought for a second, “Get the suitcase from your mom’s side of the closet.”

“This is so stupid,” I stomped upstairs. My brother would probably be home any minute now. I started packing clothes and things that I could use to solve this problem. Flashlight, black clothes, sunglasses, and pretty much a disguise for sneaking around at night. My brother arrived home from work and I waited in his room for him to come up. He had swords all over his room and paintings he made. He’s an artist. Also pictures of dragons and a lot of red colored possessions.

“Brian!” I ran up to him and hugged him when he walked in the room. My brother is twenty-four but despite the age difference were are still very close and love to hang out together.

“Hey Bren,” He adjusted his glasses and patted me on the head.

“Bri, Mom and Dad are allowing me to live at the school for a week. It doesn’t seem like how they would act. They are going crazy!”

He sat down in his computer chair and looked at me probably thinking I’m the one who is crazy. I explained all about the AZ Mission without leaving out any details.

“I don’t know what to do Buh!” Buh is a nickname we call each other.

“Well that is a pretty weird situation. You’re sure it’s for real?”

“Yes, I know it. Adalie and I need to stop her.”

“Hm. Well take this,” He got up and picked up one of the daggers of his shelf.

“I probably shouldn’t be giving this to you but it seems like you might need it.” He handed it to me and told me to be careful with it. I was afraid.

“Thanks Bri.”

“If you need help you could always ask me.”

“I will.” Once back in my room I hid the dagger underneath all my stuff praying no one would see it. I continued to pack and thought about Adalie. *Can we really do this?* We have to. No matter how scared I was, we have to beat her. I was ready to go.

Day Six

My alarm clock woke me up at normal school time. *This is insane.* Today is Saturday and I’m going to school. The only difference is our parents have to drive instead of the bus. I considered convincing my parents that this is a horrible idea but I realized that I had to go. I have to save the school. I loaded my suitcase and sleeping bag into the car. I texted all my friends and all of them were going. All of the parents must have been thoroughly convinced, or hypnotized.

“Ready Mom!” I quickly went inside and hugged my dad and Brian goodbye.

“I love you family.”

“Good luck,” Brian whispered to me and I said bye one more time.

We got to the school and went to the entrance where everyone seemed to be getting dropped off. My mom helped me carry my belongings in and then said bye to me.

“Bye Mom,” I hugged her tight “I’ll miss you.”

“Don’t worry you’ll have fun! Love you.”

“Love you too.”

I went to where the students were being directed. It was divided by boys and girls and each classroom had about fifteen students by alphabetical order. That’s where we would be sleeping. *Joy. No friends in here. I guess I’m on my own.* I went to the bathroom and then heard that everyone had to evacuate to the football field. Once I was done I walked out and the hallways were empty.

“Ugh” I groaned out load and made my way down the hallway. I heard noise in the auditorium and saw all the teachers in there. Then I saw Adalie. I went in the back door and sat in the last row of chairs I hope they couldn’t see me.

“Ok teachers I need you all to make sure you keep an eye on the fifteen students you were assigned. Don’t lose track of them. When you go to the football field they will be there waiting.” I saw Zara standing on the side of the room away from everyone watching Adalie’s every move. I got a sudden idea. I took a book that was on the chair next to me and threw it at a door far away from me. Zara looked up and ran towards the door. She probably expected it to be some kid trying to get in. She opened the door and went in the hallway to check. I stood up and ran to Adalie’s side.

“Good you’re here. Teachers, quickly listen to me. Don’t listen to Zara, she’s evil. She is trying to take over the school. Now this might seem crazy but please. Don’t fall for her tricks.” I hid behind a curtain on the stage because the door Zara went through was opening again. Adalie kept talking to the teachers.

“Adalie,” I tried warning her but she couldn’t hear me “Adalie!” She continued on.

“So if she says anything to you ignore it. Don’t follow her commands.”

“Don’t follow my commands huh?” Zara walked up next to Adalie. She heard what she said.

“Adalie I told you that you better listen to me. And you go and try to turn them against me?” Zara looked furious and then she started yelling.

“I WILL WIN THIS! THIS WILL ALL BE MINE!” She did some weird motions with her hands and chanted

“I’m in control, you follow me, teachers now, kill Adalie!” The teachers froze where they were and then started shaking. They turned into Zara’s “zombies”. They looked normal still but their expressions were gone only blank stares. They were controlled by Zara now.

“GET HER!” Adalie tried to run.

“Please Zara, stop!”

“NEVER!” Zara has completely lost it! I wanted to help but I didn’t know how. They would end up killing me. I was too scared so I still hid. A zombie got hold of Adalie and pinned her to the ground. The zombies crowded around her.

“Zara, why? Why would you do this to me? You’re my sister,” She was struggling to get up.

“You’re no sister to me. You’re a trader. Goodbye Adalie. ” A zombie bit down on Adalie’s neck and she stopped moving. Zara smiled.

“Good job everyone, now let’s go.” They followed her out the door. I ran to Adalie’s side and started crying.

“Adalie? Please wake up.” Adalie groaned faintly

“Adalie? Can you hear me? I’m so sorry I should have helped you.” Her eyes slightly opened.

“Brenna,” She pulled at her necklace “take it. You will need it. I believe in you.” I took the necklace from her hands.

“I can’t do this without you. I’m supposed to follow your lead remember?” I held her hand in mine.

“You can do it,” her voice was only a whisper “you can save us, you’re special. I knew since the moment I saw you.”

“But-”

“Believe in yourself. We will win…You will win.” Her hand slipped away from mine.

“Adalie?” She was gone. I started to cry again. I was alone. How could I beat Zara now? I looked down at the necklace in my hand, there was still hope.

Brainwashed

I walked outside to the football field where everyone was sitting. I fastened the necklace around my neck and tried to think of how it will help me. Adalie knows what she’s talking about. *I can do it*. I tried convincing myself. I took a set and watched as Zara and the zombies made their way to the microphone.

“Hello everyone. I will now be in charge of this ‘science project’. There will be no cell phones or internet. No type of communication what-so-ever.” The crowd of students reacted by screaming “what?” and booing Zara.

“I have disconnected wireless connection and as for cell phones… let’s just say I took care of the sending currents.” People around me started taking out their phones and trying to send a message. They all wouldn’t go through. Everyone was freaking out now saying Zara is crazy. They were trying to leave or go fight her. It was a mad scene.

“HEY!” Zara screamed to get everyone’s attention “YOU ALL NEED TO CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME OR ELSE.”

“Or else what?” many people yelled back at her. *This was not going to end well.*

“That’s it” I saw her mouth to a zombie she started to chant something else but everyone was too loud to hear. *What if she was going to make us zombies!* Somehow everyone shut up within one moment and we all listened to her chant.

“Everyone must listen to me, everyone must follow my way, I’m in charge can’t you see, you all must do what I say.” She was brainwashing us all, just like the zombies. I can’t get brainwashed I’m our only hope! I tried to think hard about what I wanted and what I believed in and realized her chant didn’t work. At least not to me. Adalie’s necklace was sparkling and sending out purple magical ribbons around me. Like a shield.

“How?” I breathed in and felt the power from the necklace enter into me. Adalie saved me. I looked around and everyone had stayed silent.

“Now everyone please stay calm and listen. Our world is going to end. It’s going to blow up and we will die.” Everyone gasped and started talking amongst themselves.

“Luckily,” Zara continued on “There is a nearby planet we can go to. It is suitable to live on and all of us will start a new life.” Everyone started cheering in agreement and I knew how all of it was a lie.

“Now go to your assigned classrooms for more information.” Everyone stood up at the exact same time. *They are zombies. I’ll have to play along.* They were acting normal though. Since they were talking to each other.

On the walk back in I searched for my friends, maybe I can snap them out of it. I saw Jess walking and ran up to her.

“Jess!”

“Hey Brenna. What’s up?”

“Um. I think this whole thing is pretty crazy. Don’t you?”

“No it’s a good idea and Zara is going to help us through it.”

“No Jess, Zara is evil! Snap out of it!”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about. I’ll talk to you later.” She stared angrily at me as if I going against the rules and causing problems. *How will I snap people out of this?*

Once back in the building the teacher in charge of our classroom lined us up in the hallway. All the groups seemed to be doing this. It felt like a dream. They had us back against the wall. Hands behind our backs. Zara walked through the hallways with a megaphone. She was saying how we were going to board a spaceship and get out of here. They were handcuffing us to the wall. Holding us hostage! I ran away before they reached me. No way will they catch me!

I went and searched for my suitcase I might need that dagger. On my way I ran into Sean again. He looked straight at Adalie’s necklace and then up at my face.

“Brenna, I see you have run away.”

“Yes I have, They are not going to hold me hostage. I’m gonna stop this.”

“You don’t need to. Why don’t you just join us? ”

“What? Why would I EVER join you?”

“Zara wants you to be her sidekick and help her rule.”

“Isn’t that your job? Her ‘sidekick’.” Sean thought for a second.

“You’re right,” He looked almost sad “she wants to replace me, with YOU! How could she?”

“It’s ok Sean. If you want you could help me.” *Maybe I could get him on my side.*

“No! I would never help you. You are the one she wants to take my place. You’re my competition.” He broke a pipe off the wall and tried to hit me with it.

“Omg! Sean calm down!” I tried pulling a pipe off the wall too but I wasn’t strong enough. Then I got a plan. I stood right in front of the pipe and when he went to hit my head I ducked. He broke the top of the pipe off the wall. I ran to the other side of the hallway and he followed. Then with all my strength I went back to where the pipe was and jumped against the bottom. I got it.

I looked at him and picked up the pipe. *It’s time.* I held the pipe out in front of me in en garde position. That’s fencing talk for on guard. Ready to fight. I almost laughed because I thought of how last fencing practice I wanted to fight someone for real with my moves. I got my wish and now it didn’t sound fun. It was scary. I started advancing towards him and kept in stance. Sean was swinging his pipe around like and animal. I went at him jabbing him and lunging. He didn’t stand a chance. As I kept hitting him I realized we weren’t wearing protective gear. And I was hitting him really hard with a pipe! He fell to the ground. I ran to his side. I didn’t mean to hurt him that badly.

“Sean? Are you ok?” I touched his arm. A huge bolt of energy came out from the necklace into his chest. I jumped up and looked down at him waiting for something to happen. He stood up and looked at me straight in the eyes. He looked as if he was going to cry.

“You saved me!” He ran up to me and hugged me tight.

“What are you talking about?”

“Zara cursed my and made me her apprentice when she first came here. I was just a normal alien living on Jupiter with her. She made me change to a human form and come here, so I could be here cover. She couldn’t change so that’s why she looks the way she does. I haven’t been able to get out of the trance… that necklace…”

“It was Adalie’s. Zara killed her.”

“I know. I just can’t believe it has that power.”

“It saved me from being brainwashed too.”

“Brenna you really need to stop her. When she first met you she said to me. ‘If I don’t do this that girl will kill me.’ You have to kill her. I will help you.”

“I…I don’t know. I can’t.” I almost started crying.

“You can,” He put his hands on my shoulders “You just need an army.”

Escape

Sean and I snuck around the hallways trying to make sure we didn’t get caught.

“Brenna, I have an idea.”

“What?”

“I’ll act like I caught you escaping so I’m going to bring you to Zara. Really I’ll help you get your friends out.”

“Good plan!” I smiled and put my hand behind my back. He held on to my arms and walked behind me. We got up to a hallway where many zombies were patrolling around.

“This one tried to escape. I’ll bring her down to Zara. Also there is a meeting down there you all need to attend. Zara’s orders.” The zombies listened to him and left us in the hallway with the brainwashed students.

“Now!” He let go of me and we started running down the hallway. I found Sabrina and Kaitlin first thing.

“Brenna what are you doing don’t escape!”

“Listen, calm down I got this.” I put my hands on their shoulders and sang

“Open your eyes, clear your minds, listen to me, you’ll be fine.” I let go of them they looked at me and then at the necklace which was sparkling.

“How did you do that? And what is going on?” Sean answered for me saying,

“She will explain later, just follow our lead.” I nodded and they both agreed. We walked up and down more hallways and found Lauren, Steph, and Madi. I sang my little song for them each time and told them not to ask questions. They will understand later. Once we turned a corner Zara was standing there.

“Sean? What are you doing?”

“I… I found her escaping with some friends she broke out. I was coming to find you.” He gave me a look that said run! I gave all my friends that same look and we took off. Zara got hold of Lauren and Madi. Sean grabbed on to Steph. Probably to make it believable to Zara. I wanted to run back and get them but I couldn’t. I just hoped she wouldn’t hurt them. Sean was still there. I ran into a stairwell where it looked like students were being lead too. I climbed up the latter and pushed up the hatch to the roof. Sabrina and Kaitlin followed behind me and we stared in awe. The hatch lead to the roof but little did we know a spaceship was on the roof. We were in it.

The space ship had metal walls that were silver and looked strong. The floor was also metal and futuristic looking. There were many buttons and switches on a control board with a driver’s seat. A large window was in front of the control board. Like a windshield.

“Is this what I think it is?” Sabrina almost fainted.

“Yea, it’s a spaceship. Zara is an alien.” They looked at me like I was insane but then took it back because we were standing in a spaceship. *How’s that for proof?*

“Should we get out of here?” Kaitlin shook nervously “What if it takes off?”

“Just don’t touch anything,” Sabrina stated. Then there was a loud creaking sound.

“Never mind, let get off,” Sabrina headed for the hatch.

“No way. Get back here. Guys if Zara finds us who knows what will happen. We need to hide out here,” I tried convincing them. Suddenly the hatch flew open and a ton of kids came filing in. We tried to blend in and just sat down in line with them. A zombie came in last.

“As the first group to travel be prepared it will be an exciting ride.” All of us blacked out.

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When I woke up I looked around me. It didn’t look like Earth at all. It looked like a barren field with a mountain in the background. There was a forest and stream next to the field and that was set in a slight valley. These things just don’t go together. My friends woke up and looked around.

“This isn’t possible. The whole thing about another planet was a lie.” I whispered to them.

“Then where are we?” Sabrina didn’t move

“I don’t know! I don’t know what happening to us.” The students got up and started walking around this unfamiliar place. I got up also and walked into the forest. Sabrina followed me.

“Where are you going?”

“I have no idea. Look around I guess.” Off in the distance past the mountains was Earth up in the sky. It looked like it was expanding. Kaitlin ran up to us.

“Is it just me or does that look just like earth? About to explode!” Kaitlin started breathing heavily.

“I wish I could tell you no but that would be a lie,” I started crying “everything I was told was fake came true! I don’t understand.” The three of us hugged each other in a big huddle.

“What are your last words?” I sniffled.

“I love you guys,” Kaitlin said through her tears,

“You’re great friends,” Sabrina started bawling. I looked up at the sky and saw the earth expanding more. It abruptly stopped and shrunk to an eighth of its size. At that moment it exploded. Bright as the sun the earth transformed into an exploding ball of fire. I closed my eyes once I saw it start to explode but nothing happened. No sound or feeling of impact. We all looked up and saw the words “The End” spread across the sky.

“What’s going on?” Kaitlin said with her voice in a low whisper.

“I don’t know,” I stammered, “but I’m going to find out…”

Finish This

I hiked up to where we were when we arrived here. Where did the spaceship go? And how were there words in the sky?

Sabrina pointed to where the zombie was standing. Next to her was a chair.

“What’s going on here? If the Earth exploded why are we still alive?” I questioned the zombie.

“Zara just told me to do this,” she hit a button on the chair and we were back in the spaceship.

“Woah! What was that? What is going on?!”

“You never left the spaceship. It was just a background on the walls of the ship. It was a 3D image that made it seem real.” I lifted the hatch and down back into the school. I ran down the hallways.

“Brenna! Wait!” Sabrina and Kaitlin called after me. I kept running I went and grabbed my dagger. I put it in the waistband of my pants and went to the auditorium. Lucky guess. That’s where they were. I didn’t bother hiding and went right up to Zara. She was standing on the stage with Madi, Steph, and Lauren. Probably asking them questions against their will. Sean was standing behind them. They all looked at me as I ran up to her and slapped her in the face.

“What was that for?” She touched the side of her face. Right where her scar was.

“You are completely insane,” Sabrina and Kaitlin entered the auditorium and stayed in the back. “You go off about all these plans and stories but none of them make any sense. What was the point of that fake planet thing? What did that do for you?”

“Oh Brenna, you don’t understand the evil mind. I try to confuse everyone and mess stuff up for my own enjoyment. I already have what I want I’m in control. Your little friends here told me that your necklace broke their trance. Adalie gave it to you huh?”

“Yea she did. And you know what she told me? Not to let you win!” I took the dagger out from behind my back and tried to stab her with it. She dodged it.

“You’re trying to kill me? Big mistake little girl! Get her Sean.”

“Sorry Zara I’m on her side now.” Sean tackled Zara down and punched her repeatedly.

“Everyone get off the stage!” My friends ran to the back of the auditorium and watched. I went to where Sean had Zara down but she kicked him in the stomach and got up. She jumped on me and started hitting me trying to get the necklace and dagger from me. Zara pushed the dagger out from my grip and it slide across the floor. I scrambled to get it but she pulled me backwards and grabbed for my neck.

“Sean! Get the dagger.” He got up from where he was crouched over and limped towards the dagger.

“You’re nothing without this!” Zara pulled the necklace off of me and huge sparks came off of it. They started zapping her and made her drop to the floor.

“Brenna catch!” Sean chucked the dagger towards me. *Perfect catch.* I ran to Zara and grabbed the necklace from her hand. She was curled up on the floor, still alive though.

“It’s over Zara. I won.” I took the dagger with both hands and plunged it through her heart. I took a step back and feel backwards. Sean came to my side and I held on to him and cried.

“It was the only way Brenna. You did it. You saved the world.” My friends approached me now too and embraced me. The auditorium doors opened and everyone was out of the trance. The rest of my friends came running toward me hugging me. Everyone else just stared and observed.

“Brenna, when the trace broke everything that happened went through our heads. We saw it all,” Blaire explained to me “you did it. I can’t believe it.”

Everyone congratulated me and hugged me. I was still on the floor latched to Sean though. I felt like I was sleeping.

“You’re ok, don’t worry,” Sean reassured me that I was safe and I was going to be ok.

Epilogue

About an hour after the incident parents came to get their children. Their trance was broken and the saw it all happen too. The teacher talked to them and the police men that showed up. *This will be a great front page story.* As everyone we leaving I stayed with Sean in one of the classrooms. The teachers wanted me to relax and not be asked so many questions.

“Did this all really happen Sean? I feel like In one week all of this couldn’t have possibly happened.” His arm was around me and I had my head on his shoulder. I was so tired.

“Believe it. It happened.” I laughed and thought about what happened and how Adalie and Zara both were killed and all the brainwashing and the tricks that happened.

“I almost killed you,” I looked up at his eyes “if it weren’t for the necklace I would have”

“No, you saved me. You killed what I was cursed to be.” I pulled the necklace out of my pocket and we both stared at it. He took it from my hands and tied it around my neck.

“It belongs to you. It’s meant for you.” He leaned in and kissed me. “You saved the earth.”

“I guess I could say that now. Though it’s hard to believe a fifteen year old girl saved the earth. But I did it.”

“You did,” he hugged me and helped me up “let’s go find your parents.”

My mom and dad hugged me as if they thought they would never see me again.

“I’m so glad you’re ok! I’m so proud of you! You saved the world.”

“Thanks,” I hugged them tighter “I’m glad it’s all ok too.” I looked behind me and Sean stood there smiling I smiled back, I would see him later. I went with my parents to the car and we drove home. Tomorrow I was sure I would have a billion interviews and I would be known as the girl who saved the world. To me though I was just Brenna. The girl who lives a regular teenage life, with a bit of a twist.